

Remarks

Reconsideration of the present patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Of previously pending claims 1-31, claims 1-4 and 7-31 were rejected. Claims 5 and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 4 and 5 which have been canceled, and claim 6 has been amended to depend upon amended claim 1. Dependent claims 2-3 and 6-7 now depend upon allowable independent claim 1 and hence should be allowable. Remaining claims 8-31 have been canceled.

Therefore, in view of the amendments above and the remarks directed thereto, the applicants respectfully request that the rejections be removed, that claims 1-3 and 6-7 be allowed and the case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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